

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SW
SUBJECT: PUBLIC OPINION POLL SHOWS SOCIALIST BLOC WITH SLIGHT
LEAD FOUR DAYS BEFORE ELECTIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE LAST SIFO (SWEDISH
INSTITUTE FOR OPINION RESEARCH) PUBLIC OPINION POLL
TO BE RELEASED BEFORE THE SWEDISH ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 19 SHOWS THE SOCIALIST BLOC LEADING THE
OPPOSITION BY FOUR-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENTAGE POINT.
THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND THE COMMUNISTS (VPK) HAVE
OVERCOME THEIR EARLIER DEFICIT AND PULLED INTO A
DEAD HEAT IN THEIR EFFORTS TO RETAIN CONTROL OF
THE GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LATEST POLL CONFIRMS WHAT MOST
OBSERVERS EXPECTED: THAT THE ELECTION WILL BE
DECIDED BY THE SLIGHTEST OF MARGINS. TAKEN WITHIN
THE LAST WEEK AND RELEASED ON SEPTEMBER 16, FOUR DAYS BEFORE
ELECTIONS, THE POLL SHOWS RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION,
"WHO WILL YOU VOTE FOR?" THE SOCIALIST BLOC (SDP
AND VPK) RECEIVED 48.9 PERCENT, WITH THE OPPOSITION
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PARTIES (CENTER, MODERATE AND LIBERAL) RECEIVING

48.5 PERCENT. COMPARABLE FIGURES FROM THE AUGUST POLL WERE 47 PERCENT VS. 51 PERCENT, AND THE MODERATE AND LIBERAL PARTIES SUFFERED LOSSES FROM THE AUGUST FIGURES. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS INCREASED FROM 42.5 PERCENT TO 43.8 PERCENT, WHILE THE VPK SHOWED A STRONG RALLY FROM 4.5 PERCENT TO 5.1 PERCENT AND NOW SEEMS RELATIVELY ASSURED OF RETAINING ITS SEATS IN PARLIAMENT.

3. GIVEN A MARGIN OF ERROR OF APPROXIMATELY 2 PERCENT IN THE POLL RESULTS, EITHER BLOC CAN WIN A NARROW VICTORY. SHOULD THE SIFO FIGURES CORRECTLY PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF THE ACTUAL VOTE, THE SOCIALIST BLOC WOULD RECEIVE 175 SEATS IN THE RIKSDAG COMPARED WITH 1UR FOR THE OPPOSITION. WITH THE RACE SO CLOSE, THE VOTES OF THREE OR FOUR THOUSAND PEOPLE COULD BE DECISIVE.

4 GIVEN BELOW ARE RESULTS OF LATEST POLL, WITH COMPARABLE FIGURES FROM AUGUST AND RESULTS OF THE 1973 ELECTIONS:

	SEPT	AUG.	1973 ELECTIONS	
MODERATE	15.3	17.0	14.3	
LIBERAL	11.2	12.0	9.4	
CENTER	22.0	22.0	25.1	
SOCIAL DEMOCRAT	43.8	42.5	43.6	
VPK	5.1	4.5	5.3	
OTHER	2.6	2.0	2.3	

5. COMMENT: THE VPK HAS APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN SUBLINATING ITS DIFFERENCES AND ITS RELATIVELY STRONG SHOWING MUST GIVE HEART TO THE SOCILA DEMOCRATS, WHO RELY ON VPK SUPPORT TO GOVERN. OPPOSITION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SHOWING INCREASING OPTIMISM OF LATE, AND WHILE THE RESULTS ARE VERY DISAPPOINTING FOR THEM, THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION IS VERY MUCH UNCERTAIN. BOTH BLOCS WILL HOPE TO MAKE A POWERFUL LAST-MINUTE EFFORT, WITH PUBLIC ATTENTION FOCUSING ON A TELEVISED DEBATE SEPTEMBER 17

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BETWEEN ALL THE PARTY LEADERS. IN THE END, THE RESULTS WILL PROBABLY DEPEND ON WHICH SIDE IS MOST SUCCESSFUL IN MOBILIZING ITS SUPPORT ON ELECTION DAYS.
SMITH

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